MARVEL COMICS
SPIDER-MAN 2099
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WELCOME NIGHTSHADE
ST. PIERRE + PALMIOTTI
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$1.50 US $2.05 CAN/ UK £1.25
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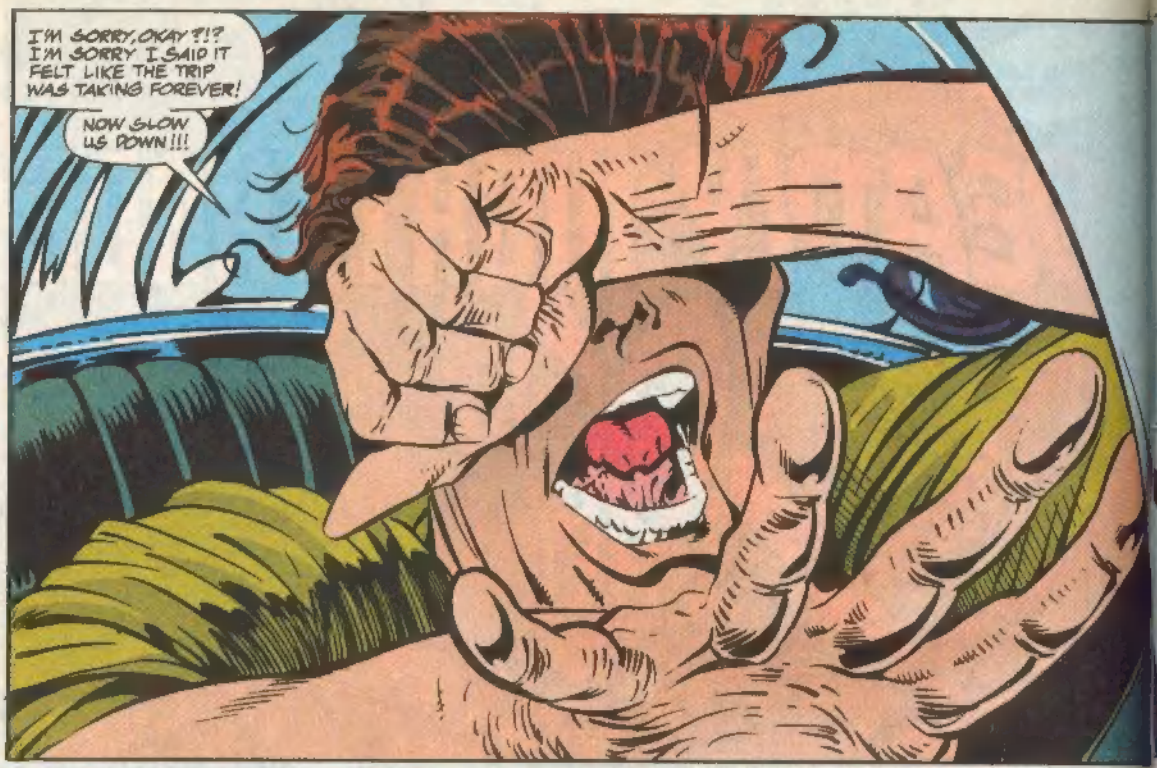
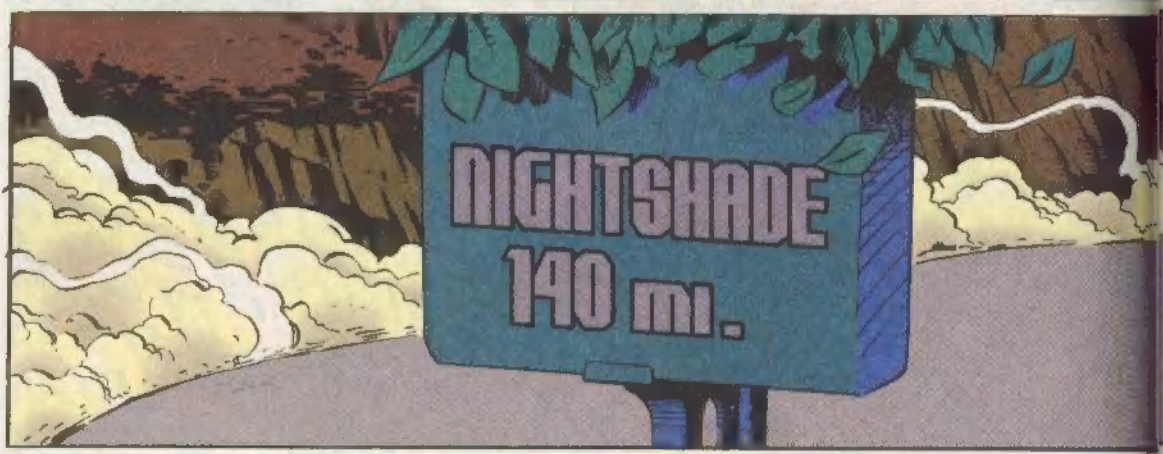
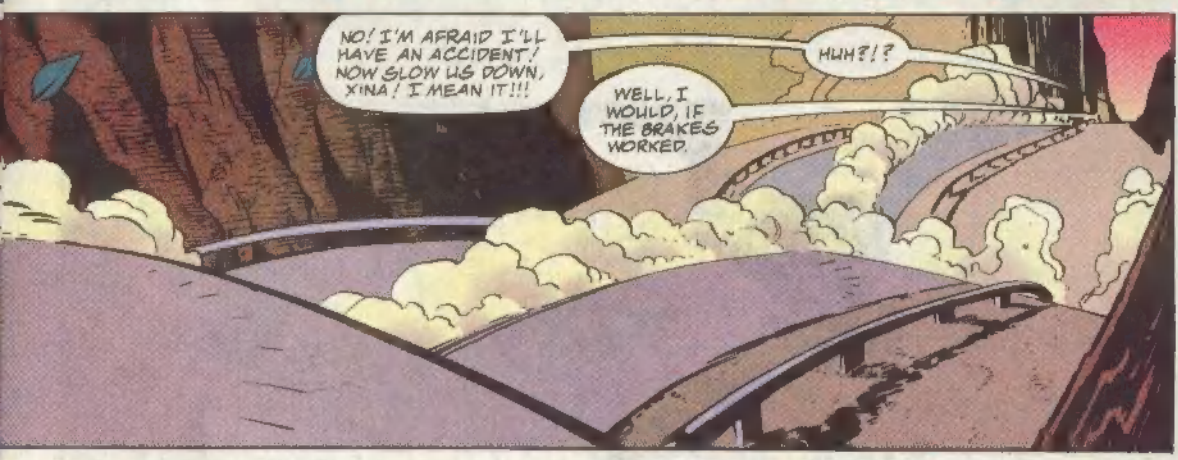
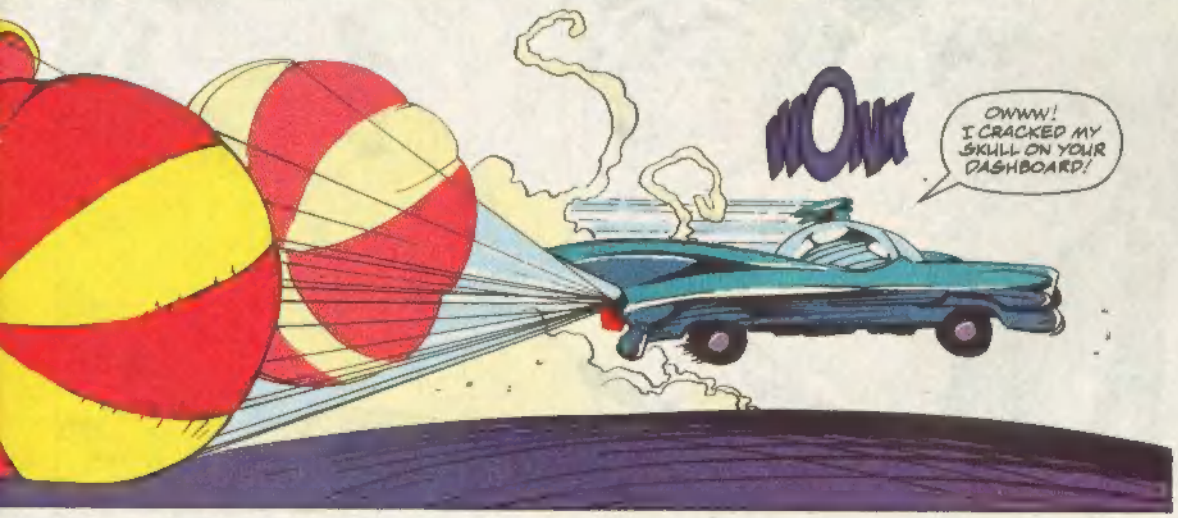

I'M SORRY, OKAY?!? I'M SORRY I SAID IT FELT LIKE THE TRIP WAS TAKING FOREVER!
NOW SLOW US DOWN!!!

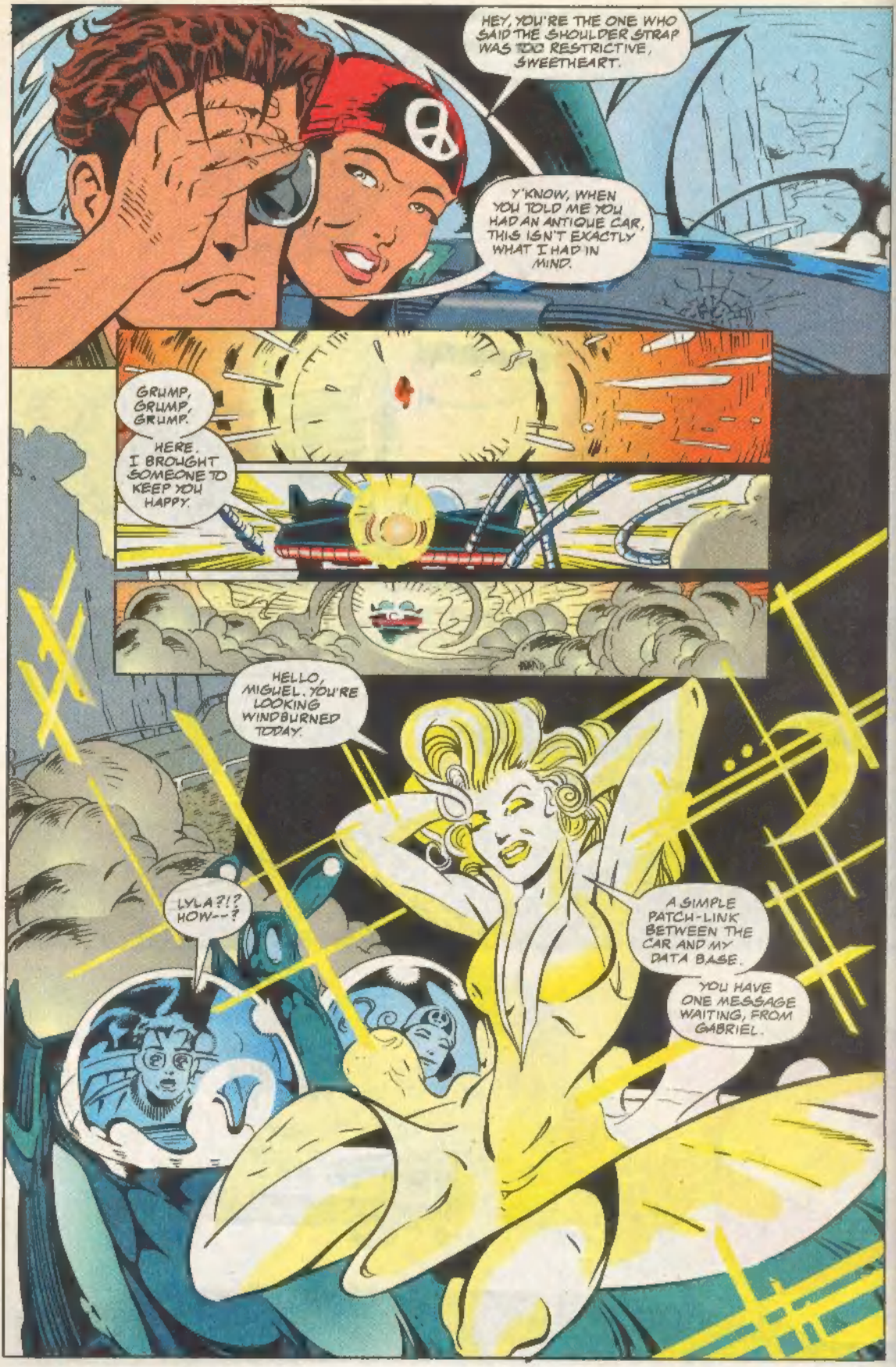

NIGHTSHADE
140 mi.

DON'T WORRY, I GOT IT COVERED!

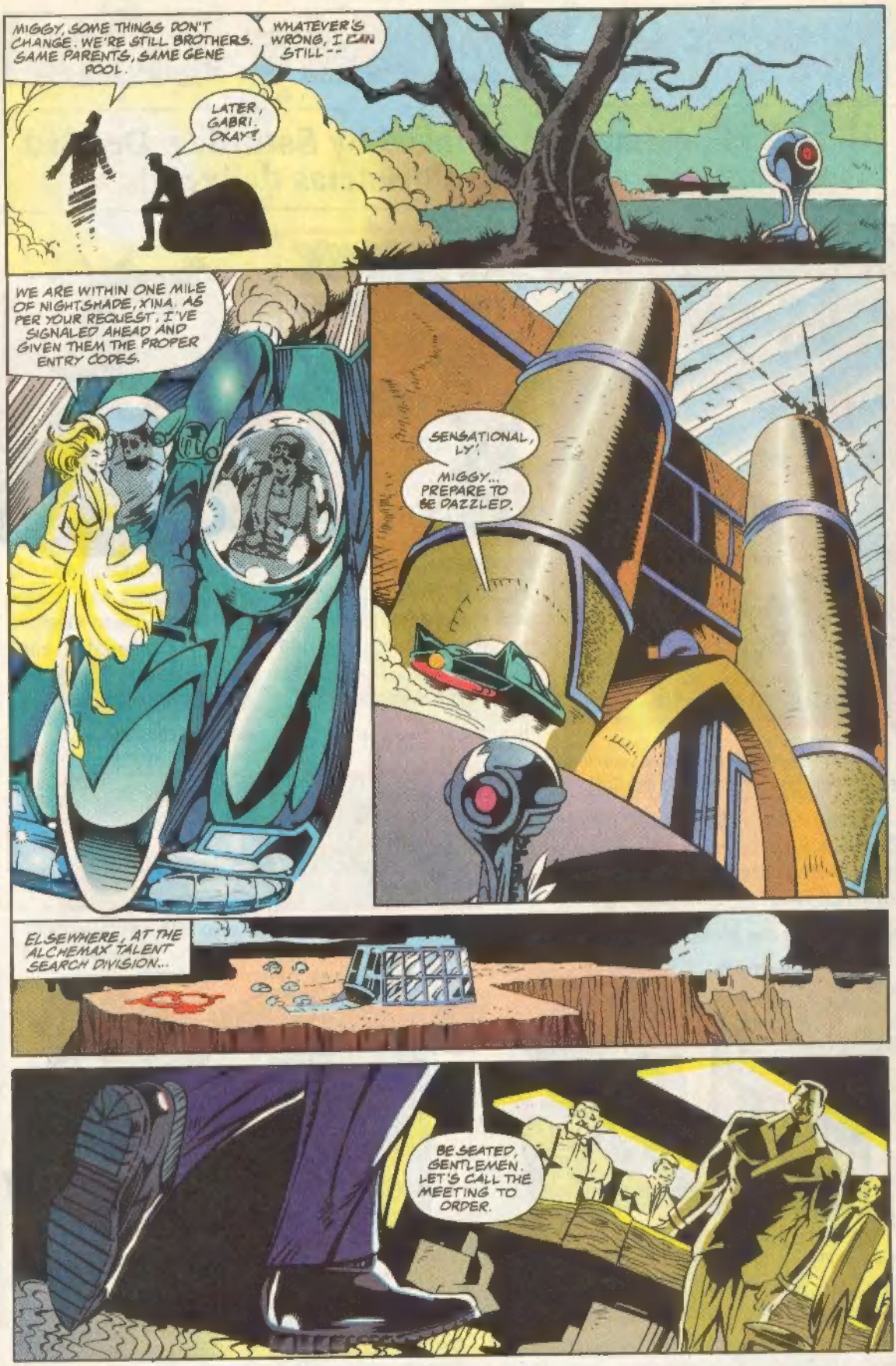
AW, C'MON, MIGGY... YOU'RE NOT AFRAID I'LL HAVE AN ACCIDENT, ARE YOU?

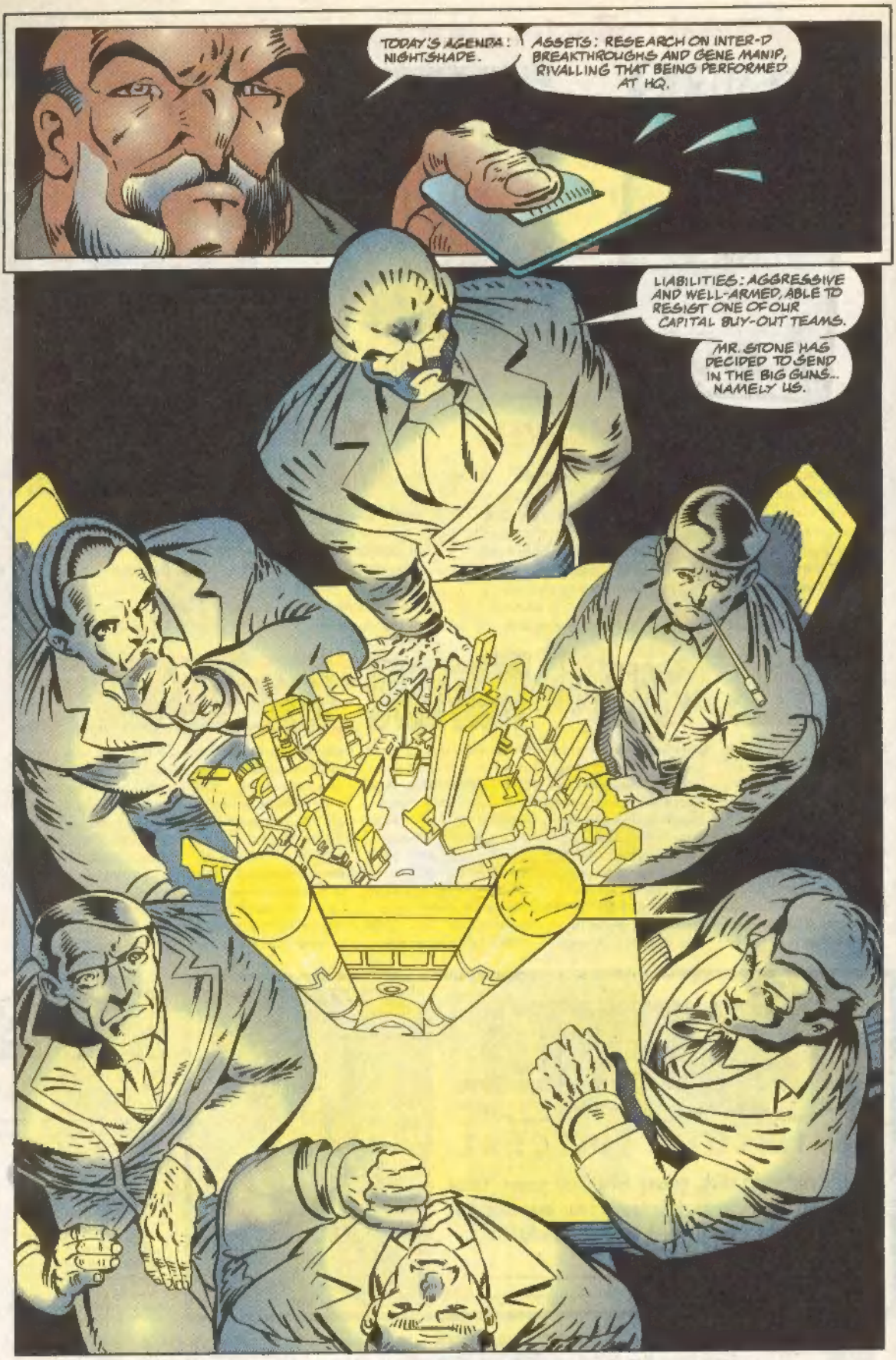

NO! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE AN ACCIDENT! NOW SLOW US DOWN, XINA! I MEAN IT!!!
HUH?!?
WELL, I WOULD, IF THE BRAKES WORKED.


WOWK
OWWW! I CRACKED MY SKULL ON YOUR DASHBOARD!


HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THE SHOULDER STRAP WAS TOO RESTRICTIVE, SWEETHEART.
Y'KNOW, WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD AN ANTIQUE CAR, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
GRUMP, GRUMP, GRUMP.
HERE. I BROUGHT SOMEONE TO KEEP YOU HAPPY.
HELLO, MIGUEL. YOU'RE LOOKING WINDBURNED TODAY.
LYLA?!? HOW--?
A SIMPLE PATCH-LINK BETWEEN THE CAR AND MY DATA BASE.
YOU HAVE ONE MESSAGE WAITING, FROM GABRIEL.

ERASE IT.
DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT IT SAYS?
"OH, I CAN GUESS. IT'S PROBABLY RELATED TO OUR PREVIOUS CALL... THE ONE I MADE FROM YOUR PLACE, BEFORE WE HIT THE ROAD. WHEN HE SAID I SHOULD GET OVER TO HIS PLACE..."
...TO MY PLACE, RIGHT NOW! KASEY'S BACK! THEY JUST LET HER GO!
AND SHE'S BEING NICE TO ME! I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT SHE IS! AND MA--
GABRI... I CAN'T SEE ANYONE RIGHT NOW. PLEASE UNDERSTAND, OKAY?
UNDER-STAND WHAT?
IS THIS ABOUT... YOU KNOW?
NO. NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. IT'S JUST... THINGS CHANGE, Y'KNOW?


MIGGY, SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE. WE'RE STILL BROTHERS. SAME PARENTS, SAME GENE POOL.
WHATEVER'S WRONG, I CAN STILL--
LATER, GABRI. OKAY?
WE ARE WITHIN ONE MILE OF NIGHTSHADE, XINA. AS PER YOUR REQUEST, I'VE SIGNALED AHEAD AND GIVEN THEM THE PROPER ENTRY CODES.
SENSATIONAL, LY'.
MIGGY... PREPARE TO BE DAZZLED.
ELSEWHERE, AT THE ALCHEMAX TALENT SEARCH DIVISION...
BE SEATED, GENTLEMEN. LET'S CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER.


TODAY'S AGENDA: NIGHTSHADE.
ASSETS: RESEARCH ON INTER-D BREAKTHROUGHS AND GENE MANIP, RIVALLING THAT BEING PERFORMED AT HQ.
LIABILITIES: AGGRESSIVE AND WELL-ARMED, ABLE TO RESIST ONE OF OUR CAPITAL BUY-OUT TEAMS.
MR. STONE HAS DECIDED TO SEND IN THE BIG GUNS... NAMELY US.

WILL WE NEED MORE RECRUITS, MR. CULLEN ?
OH, I DON'T THINK SO, PEMBERT. AFTER ALL...
I AM THE CORPORATE HEADHUNTER...AND YOU ARE MY CORPORATE RAIDERS. WE SHOULD SUFFICE.
BRIEFCASES, GENTLEMEN. AND...
OPEN.
GENTLEMEN... LET'S HAVE A GOOD SHIFT.

IT'S SO FABULOUS TO SEE YOU BOTH! IT'S LIKE YESTERDAY YOU WERE MY STUDENTS, AND NOW, LOOK AT YOU!
I FEEL SO OLD.
YOU SURE DON'T LOOK IT, STRETCH!
THE STUFF WE'RE DOING HERE KEEPS ME YOUNG. I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU THE--
HOLD IT. MIGUEL, YOU'RE STILL WITH ALCHEMAX, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, TECHNICALLY...
OY, I'M SORRY, ANGELA. I WASN'T THINKING.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
STATUS-WISE, MIGUEL, YOU'RE OUR RIVAL.
YOU CAN VISIT MOST OTHER PARTS OF TOWN, BUT R&D IS OFF LIMITS.
I'M NOT EXACTLY AN ALCHEMAX FAN...
DOESN'T MATTER. TOWN RULES.
OKAY, FINE. I'LL CATCH YOU GUYS UP LATER.

E.T.A. TO NIGHTSHADE?
GOOD. ANOTHER HAND OF GIN, THEN?
37 MINUTES, HEADHUNTER.
MEANTIME, AT GABE'S APARTMENT...
O... O'Hara...?
JUST TAKE IT EASY, KASEY. YOU'RE SAFE WITH ME.
And your secret's...safe with me...
UH... WHAT SECRET MIGHT THAT BE?
That you're Spider-Man.
THAT I'M--!
MMMMFF
NO TALK. JUST ACTION.
AND, IN NIGHTSHADE...

ARRP! ARRP!
SO WHAT'S HIS NAME, AND HOW MUCH IS HE?
WE CALL HIM "SCOOBY," AND HE'S ONLY A THOUSAND, SIR.
YOU CAN ARTLIST HIS VOLUME IF HIS BARKING'S TOO LOUD.
ACTIVE LITTLE GUY.
PHWEET PHWEET PHWEET
WHAT THE SHOCK'S THAT RACKET?
THAT'S THE ALARM! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
ATTACK? FROM WHO?!
PHWEET PHWEET
ALCHEMAX, MOST LIKELY. COME ON.
PHWEET PHWEET
AAALLLL.. CHEMAX?

THEY SEEM ALERTED TO OUR PRESENCE, SIR.
WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHERE'S EVERYONE--?!
PLEASE SEEK SHELTER, SIR. LET THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS HANDLE THIS.
RRRRR
WHIRRR
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, SIR. LASER-SIGHTED PLASMA CANNONS.
ENGAGING IN EVASIVE MANUEVERS. CHANCE OF ABORTING MISSION: 1 IN 50.

THEIR GATES ARE CLOSED, SIR.
WELL, THAT'S HARDLY SURPRISING, PEMBERT.
KICK 'EM.
RA-BLAAM
IT'S THE SUITS! THEY'VE SENT THE SUITS!!
HOLEEE--!
I'M NOT 100% SURE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...
BUT IF THIS BOILS DOWN TO ALCHEMAX VS. THE LITTLE GUY...

I DON'T HAVE TO THINK TOO HARD TO KNOW WHOSE SIDE I'M ON!
ALLLLCHEMAXXX!!!!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I AM THE CORPORATE HEADHUNTER... AND THIS IS A HOSTILE TAKEOVER.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.
YEAH, I'LL BET!
WHAT THE BLAZES?!

IF YOU COOPERATE, NO ONE WILL BE HARMED.
AND IF WE DON'T, THEN MAYBE YOU'LL [redacted] HARMED!
UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT YOU'VE BET IS YOUR LIFE.
ANYONE ELSE?

NEXT: HOSTILE TAKEOVER!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: YOUNG MIGUEL O'HARA

"COMING TO A HEAD"

FERGIT IT, O'HARA! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ACE ME AT FOOTBALL, YOU'RE EVEN DUMBER THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR!
MIGGY! I'M CLEAR! [redacted] IT!
ALCHEMAX

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NICE MOVE THERE, KRON! SEE YOU LATER!
OOOF!
I'LL SEE YOU NOW, O'HARA!
HEY!
HAAA HA HAHA!
KRON! YOU SHOCKIN' CREEP!!

WASSAMATTER, O'HARA? CAN'T TAKE A JOKE?
OR ARE YA GONNA DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT?
STONE!!
I SAW THAT LITTLE MANUEVER! DROP AND GIMME FIFTY!
HE RUNS AWAY! YA GOTTA LOVE THIS GUY!
HOW ABOUT IF I GIVE YOU MY DAD'S PRIVATE LINE AND YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH HIM?
XINA, GO ROUND UP MIGUEL. REST OF YOU, HIT THE SHOWERS.
STONE... LET'S CHAT.

AH. HERE YOU ARE.
HEY... C'MON, MIGGY. YOU'RE NOT CRYING, ARE YOU?
EVEN YOU LAUGHED, XINA. HOW COULD YOU HAVE LAUGHED?
I'M SORRY. IT LOOKED FUNNY. PIES IN THE FACE, PANTS AROUND THE ANKLES... IT'S SLAPSTICK STUFF.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LAUGHED. IT WAS RUDE AND INSENSITIVE, AND I APOLOGIZE.
YEAH, WELL... GOOD FOR YOU.
HEY, I SAID I'M SORRY. I MEAN, FRANKLY, YOU BROUGHT IT ON YOURSELF TO SOME DEGREE.
OH, REALLY?
YES, REALLY. YOU LET KRON STONE WALK ALL OVER YOU, JUST LIKE I'D WARNED YOU BEFORE. YOU GOTTA FIGHT BACK.
IF YOU DON'T LET YOURSELF BE A VICTIM, THEN YOU WON'T BE.
THANKS FOR THE SYMPATHY.

LOCKER ROOM
WHAT THE SHOCK--?!
GET OUT OF HERE! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE!
SO WHAT'D YOU SAY TO YOUR LITTLE PAL, MIGUEL?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
LET GO! I MEAN IT! OR I'LL--
YOU'LL WHAT? SCREAM?
LIKE I CARE.
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU AND LITTLE MIGUEL PLOTTING AGAINST ME.
WELL, TODAY I SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO GET IN MY WAY.
To Be Continued...